

# Rekhta

**Rekhta** (Urdu: ریختہ‎, [ˈrɛːx.t̪ə], Hindi: रेख्ता‎, [ˈrɛːxʈɑː]) was the Hindustani language as its dialectal basis shifted to the Delhi dialect. This style evolved in both the Perso-Arabic and Devanagari scripts and is considered an early form of Urdu and Hindi.<sup>[2]</sup>

Contents

Origin and usage

Rekhti

See also

References

## Origin and usage

*Rekhta* means "scattered" but also "mixed" and implies that it contained Persian.<sup>[3]</sup> Rekhta is a very versatile vernacular, and can grammatically change to adapt to Persian grammar, without sounding odd to the reader.<sup>[4]</sup>

The term Rekhta was in greatest use from the late 17th century until the late 18th century, when it was largely supplanted by *Hindi/Hindwi* (*Hindavi*) and later by *Hindustani* and *Urdu*, though it continued to be used sporadically until the late 19th century. Rekhta-style poetry (poetry using a mixed, off-Urdu language) is still produced today by Urdu speakers, and is in fact the most common linguistic form of writing poetry in the Urdu language. Rekhta was also used for forms of poetry like Masnavi, Marsia, Qaseedah, Thumri, Jikri (Zikri), Geet, Chaupai and *Kabit*.

The following popular *sher* by Mirza Ghalib also tells us that the linguistic term *rekhta* was extended in 19th-century North India to poetry written in the "rekhta" vernacular (as opposed to poetry written in Persian, then considered the classical language):

ریختہ کے تم ہی اُستاد نہیں ہو غالب  
کہتے ہیں اگلے زمانے میں کوئی میر بھی تھا

*Reḵhta ke tum hī ustād nahīñ ho ḡhālib,*  
(Translation: You are not the sole grandmaster of Rekhta, Ghalib)

*Kēhte haiñ agle zamāne meñ koī 'mīr' bhī thā*  
(Translation: They say, in the ages past, that there was one [called] Mir)

	Rekhta
Region	South Asia
Era	term for Hindustani, 17th–18th centuries
Language family	<div>Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Indo-Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indo-Aryan<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central Zone<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western Hindi<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hindustani<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Rekhta</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–
Glottolog	rekh1239 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/rekh1239</span> ) <sup>[1]</sup>

## Rekhti

---

The grammatically feminine counterpart of *rekhta* is *rekhti*, a term first popularized by the eighteenth-century poet Sa'adat Yar Khan 'Rangin' to designate verses written in the colloquial speech of women. The Lucknow poet Insha Allah Khan 'Insha' was another well-known poet who composed *rekhtis*, according to Urdu scholar C M Naim.

## See also

---

- Persian and Urdu
- Hindustani language
- History of the Urdu language
- Urdu poetry
- Dobhashi

## References

---

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Rekhta" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/rekh1239>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. "Rekhta: Poetry in Mixed Language, The Emergence of Khari Boli Literature in North India" ([http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha\\_rekhta.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha_rekhta.pdf)) (PDF). Columbia University. Archived ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160328003510/http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha\\_rekhta.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20160328003510/http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha_rekhta.pdf)) (PDF) from the original on 28 March 2016. Retrieved 23 April 2018.
3. Hindustani (2005). Keith Brown (ed.). *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (2 ed.). Elsevier. ISBN 0-08-044299-4.
4. UCLA Language Materials Project: Urdu (<http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?LangID=101&menu=004>)

---

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rekhta&oldid=968313337>"

---

**This page was last edited on 18 July 2020, at 16:00 (UTC).**

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.